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GEORGIA PARK VIEWS

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No. 3.



JEKYLL TO HAVE VALUE OF \$2,500,000 WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED

By Jimmy Jones, publicity director Georgia Department of State Parks

Jekyll, the fabulous semi-tropical island off the Georgia coast in Glynn County, officially became the property of the State after 61 years of private ownership on October 8 when \$675,000 was paid the owners. Thus the State regained approximately 11,000 acres of land that originally belonged to Georgia. (Jekyll was discovered by Sir Francis Drake in 1587 who claimed it for Queen Elizabeth of England and General James Oglethorpe, founder and first governor of Georgia, resided there from 1733 until his retirement in 1743.) The Island was abandoned after Oglethorpe left for England but King George III of Great Britain officially reclaimed it for the colony of Georgia with a royal proclamation in 1768. So, although Jekyll has been under five sets of owners (Indian, Spanish, French, British and Pirates), there are few who will argue Georgia's historic right of re-possession, especially since legal proceedings ended in the award of what was considered an acceptable price by a majority of the Island's owners.

The two big questions now are: (1) Just what did the people of Georgia get for their money? (2) What are plans for developing Jekyll?

Answering number 1 as factually as possible, the State received approximately 6500 acres of highland and an additional 4500 acres of marsh land, totalling about 11,000

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acres. The State also got 34.25 miles of improved roads, ten miles of beach, 36 buildings and installations (valued at more than a million dollars by one independent appraiser) and other properties, including tennis courts, swimming pools, a water system and an 18-hole golf course valued at an additional \$250,000. Some have estimated that Jekyll, including land that originally cost \$125,000 and timber worth \$100,000, is worth at least \$1,500,000 as it now stands and, with another million spent in development, eventually will be an asset worth \$2,500,000 to the State of Georgia, which means the people of Georgia, naturally.

But, most important of all, citizens of Georgia will now have access to about ten miles of the most beautiful sea-shore on the Eastern seaboard—a sizeable area considering that only approximately three miles of Georgia's coast-line was open to the public prior to Jekyll's purchase on urgency of Gov. M. E. Thompson. All who have seen the Jekyll beach compare it favorably with Daytona Beach and other pleasure spots on the East coast. The beach is smooth and hard enough for bicycle riding, midget auto races and many other seaside diversions. Approximately four miles of beach at the South end of the island have been set aside for group camps such as 4-H clubs and citizens of Camden and McIntosh counties have agreed to provide two cabins for this development. The Glynn County chamber of commerce has promised to furnish boats for public transportation while a causeway is being built to the island. The latter project will require about twelve months to complete.

There is still a big job to do before Jekyll is ready to receive visitors in large numbers. Chief Parks Engineer H. W. Oliver, after a recent inspection tour of the existing Jekyll facilities, has recommended to Director Charlie Morgan that the island's development be divided into five phases, roughly as follows: (1)—Repair of the Jekyll River dock, construction of a new dock on the island's extreme north end to receive visitors coming over from St. Simon's Island. Repair of water, electric and sewer systems. Installation of a telephone system. Renovation of buildings, including painting, plastering and heating equipment. Repair of roads, grounds and furnishings. (2)—Drainage, clearing and grubbing; repair of golf course, dams, and new dock extensions, slips, boatways (including a boat repair station) and minor buildings. (3)—Construction of main highways, parking areas, bridle paths and repair of bridges on the island proper. (4)—Construction of cabins, beach cottages, trading center and installation of utilities and furnishings in cabins. (5)—Improvements and maintenance.

The State Parks department now has a maintenance crew working daily on the Island and an additional labor force of 100 to 150 prisoners, selected for their vocational skills, will be moved in shortly. No definite date has been selected for the official opening of Jekyll to the public, but it is hoped that facilities will be available to accommodate up to 1,500 visitors daily by February, 1948, and that by June 15, when the vacation season starts in Georgia, sufficient housing will be available to take care of all visitors. When the causeway is built, connecting State Highway 17 with the island, an influx of 40,000 visitors monthly is expected. By that time, more cottages will have been built to supplement the Jekyll Island Club, the Jekyll Annex, San Souci apartments, private homes and other facilities now available. Following is an inventory of the housing facilities and other assets that became State property with the purchase of Jekyll: Main Club House, Club House Annex, San Souci apartments, Crain home, Maurice home, Jennings home, Gould (or Condon) home; James home, Rockefeller home, Goodyear home, Macey home, hospital, garage, laundry, dormitories 1 and 2, carpenter shop, barber shop, power house, indoor tennis court, bowling alley, guest homes 1 and 2, boarding house, keeper's home, Chappel house, dock and dock building, tea house, tool sheds 1 and 2, Caddies' house, pumping stations 1 and 2, dairy barn, dairy building, 7 servants quarters, watchman's house, library building, bicycle shop, corral, skeet range, outdoor tennis courts, swimming pools, sewage and water system and 18-hole golf course. Jekyll, after more than a half century of ownership by millionaires, was fairly well developed and largely self-sufficient from the mainland, but many facilities were closed and allowed to deteriorate during the war years. Park officials, however, have been delighted

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with the natural advantages of Jekyll as the site for a State park. The island has an ideal climate the year round and is inter-laced with beautifully designed oyster shell roads, overhung by ancient trees and spanish moss. There are many tropical plants and flowers, bordered by well kept boxwood hedges. Several of the privately owned gardens are fairly well preserved. There are two outdoor tennis courts, indoor tennis court, a bowling alley, and skeet range for sports lovers. The golf course, designed by Walter J. Travis, has been allowed to run down but can be developed into a first rate layout. Nature lovers will enjoy the great variety of wild life on the island which includes several hundred deer, wild boar, squirrels, raccoon, pheasants, ducks, marsh hens, wild turkey, opossum, rabbits, alligators and the finest fishing in Georgia. Trout fishing is unusually good and oysters, clams and crabs abound in the surrounding rivers and creeks.

In short, Jekyll is just what one's imagination pictures it---a natural paradise.

DOTS AND DASHES

Many interesting visitors to headquarters during the month.....Among the most interesting, James P. (Big Jim) Welsh, a former Atlanta newspaperman now doing public relations for the AAA and the Automobile Club of Michigan.....Jim, who once worked on the old Atlanta Georgian, had high praise for Georgia's progress, particularly in promoting its tourist attractions.....He said our museum on the fourth floor of the State Capitol, headed by Miss Annette McLean, is one of the finest he has seen.....Jim also asked for some movies of Georgia State Parks to show his clientell in Michigan.....other visitors included Judge Phil Anderson, Macon, Judge and Mrs. Harvey Kennedy, barnesville, Vernon Smith, Dahlonga, Mrs. Aubrey Matthews, Rome, "Fat" Elrod, Atlanta, Lt. Comm. Tommy Rentz, Atlanta, Bob Perrott, Brunswick, Hamp McGibbony, Greensboro, Tony Grey, Savannah, W. H. Mays, McRae, Tig Thrasher, McRae, Dr. W. E. Burdine, Blue Ridge, (State Legion Commander,) James McWhorter, Coca Cola Co., Atlanta, W. A. Sutton, State 4—H leader, Athens, R. J. Richardson, Tifton, and others.....Come again, folks, you're always welcome.....Also many nice letters received.....latest from John E. Sims, assistant to President Harmon Caldwell, University of Georgia.....Mr. Sims likes our new publication, PARK VIEWS.....Among October visitors at Vogel were Jack Tarver (Atlanta Constitution), Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Henson, Atlanta, Dr. and Mrs. W.E. Burdine, Blue Ridge, and Grace Cannington.....All praised the park's autumnal beauty.

COLOR MOVIES READY SOON

Five one reel 16 MM. travelogues of Georgia's 21 State Parks are now being processed and will be ready for public showing soon. The movies, which are timed so as to fit long or short programs, are made in technicolor by Ken Stambaugh of Demorest with narration by Fred Parsons. They will be shown to school children, civic and educational groups. The movies are equipped with sound tracks.

SPELL IT JEKYLL

Many have called Park headquarters wanting to know if Jekyll Island, our newest State Park, should be spelled with one or two L's. The correct spelling is.... JEKYLL, having been so determined by an act of the Georgia General Assembly of 1929. Prior to that it had been known variously as Ospo Island, as the Indians called it, Jacques Island and Jekyl.

BOY FOR MCQUAIGS

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald McQuaig (he's the popular superintendent at Indian Springs) are celebrating the arrival of an eight pound, four ounce baby boy on October 22, at Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta. The youngster (their first born) has been christened Donald J.

TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

During the month, State Parks Department has added two new members to its headquarters staff, Miss Ellen Carroll, assistant secretary, and Miss M. Lorraine Waldrip, public relations and publicity.

PARK VIEWS

PARK VIEWS is published monthly by the -

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE PARKS
418-419-420 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia

<u>STATE PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF</u>	
Charlie Morgan	Director
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K. P. Greer	Asst. to Director (Public Relations)
Jimmy Jones	Asst. to Director (Publicity)
Miss Lorraine Waldrip	Public Relations Secretary
Robert S. Johnston	Camping Consultant and Photographer
Gerald McQuaig	Recreation Secretary, Cashier
Miss V. M. Jones	Asst. Secretary
Miss Edna Swann	Asst. Secretary
Miss H. Williams	Asst. Secretary
Mrs. I. L. Fussell	Asst. Secretary
Miss Ellen Carroll	Asst. Secretary
Miss Annette McLean	Curator of Museum
T. J. Bailey	Supt. Maintenance Division
M. O. Crane	Custodian, Property

EDITORIAL OF THE MONTH

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JEKYLL ISLAND IS A SOUND INVESTMENT

By Morgan Blake
(In the Atlanta Journal)

Under the administration of Governor Thompson a sincere effort is being made to develop our state so that it be attractive to tourists and also a blessing to our own people. We are far behind other Southern States, like North Carolina and Florida, and it is time we were doing something about it. Charlie Morgan, head of the State Parks department, has already achieved wonders with some of our mountain parks and the cash benefits are already very noticeable.

In addition, Gov. M. E. Thompson has recently purchased for the state Jekyll Island which will be converted into a pleasure resort for our people and for tourists. The governor plans to reserve on the magnificent beach some five miles for our youth organizations, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Future Farmers, 4-H'ers, et cetera.

This will be the only such publicly owned beach in the state and will give the kids in the great youth organizations an opportunity for glorious fun they have not yet been able to enjoy in Georgia.

On the island there will be accommodations for all classes to enjoy all sorts of recreation and relaxation. Even if the island ultimately costs the state \$2,000,000, that money will come back manyfold.

* * * *

VOGEL PARK

By L. R. Dale
(From the Roswell Herald)

The writer, his wife, Mrs. W. R. Beasley and Miss Eva Richards spent Sunday at Vogel State Park in the mountains near Blairsville. Our reason for the trip was a beauty contest to decide who would be "Miss Georgia State Parks." The winner was Miss Lois Melton of Blairsville who won over 21 other contestants who represented the various state parks over the state. These girls bore out the old saying that Georgia has many peaches and we fully agree as we believe all 21 of the girls should have had "first prize."

We understand that Vogel Park is fast getting to be one of the most popular parks in the state. Much work in the nature of improvements is now going forward in the park and many new cabins have been built as well as adding playground equipment for the children.

The main thing now needed to make this one of the best parks in the state is to get some good roads over which to travel.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE:—A contract recently has been let for paving approximately six and one half miles of the Neel's Gap highway and the roads in the park proper have recently been resurfaced. When these repairs are completed Vogel will be even more popular with Georgians. We appreciate public criticism for it helps us to correct our mistakes and make the needed improvements in the parks and their approaches.

VISIT GEORGIA'S ENCHANTING STATE PARKS

Annual Report
Of Miss Elizabeth Gunn, Hostess, to the United Daughters of The Confederacy

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AT LIBERTY HALL AND A. H. STEPHENS MEMORIAL STATE PARK --
DATING FROM SEPTEMBER, 1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1947

Attendance has been good at Liberty Hall with an average during the Summer of sixteen per day. There were 2,641 visitors, 26 states and two foreign countries represented on the attractive new register. The admission was taken off in May by Major Charlie Morgan, Director of the State Parks. There were many swimmers and picnickers at the lake and barbecue pit which were used extensively, the Royal Manufacturing Company group having approximately 1,000.

Improvements in the park include two new coats of paint on all the buildings. Concrete picnic tables and ten grills for weiner roasts and picnic parties are being built; the fence around Liberty Hall has been repaired and painted and there are new gates and a new archway to replace the old ones. Flag poles were erected and the flags at Liberty Hall are those of the United States, the Confederacy and Georgia. New Porch floors have been built and repaired at Liberty Hall. The fireplaces and steps have been repaired at Harry and Eliza's house. A concrete top was put on the chimney of Ellen's House as well as new steps being built. A lye hopper replaces the old one for the Wash House. The floor to the bath house has been repaired. All signs in the park are being repainted. A drinking fountain and faucet for picnic area is being installed. A new lawn mower was furnished by the Parks Department and new curtains were hung in one of the Liberty Hall bedrooms.

Gifts to Liberty Hall were:

71 volumes of "War of the Rebellion." (Stephens prison record was found in one of these.) Given by Mrs. C. N. Hughs, of Atlanta,

Valuable historical data, including "The Atlanta Sun", 1872, (framed), of which Stephens was co-editor. Given by Mr. Frank A. Holden, of Atlanta.

Demijohn of A. H. Stephens. Given by Mrs. Arthur Jones, of Crawfordville.

China plate with Seal of The Confederacy on it. Given by Maier and Berkele, Atlanta.

Recollections of A. H. Stephens by Myrta Lockette Avery. Given by Stephens Memorial Park U. D. C. Committee.

Letter of A. H. Stephens in 1844. Given by Mrs. Lincoln Hulley, of New York.

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"YANKEE" TOURIST LAUDS GEORGIA

Early in the Park season, Director Charlie Morgan saw to it that each of Georgia's State Parks was equipped with guest books which contained spaces for signatures and comments of visiting vacationists.

Some of the latter not only have been highly complimentary, but also have offered many helpful suggestions.

One of the most flattering tributes

came from a Philadelphian who, after visiting Vogel State Park in the mountains near Blairsville, had this to say: "For sheer beauty and grandeur, no State in the Union, including my own Pennsylvania, has mountains that will compare with those of Northern Georgia." When a Northern tourist says this about Georgia's mountains, one could hardly call it a prejudicial statement.

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AUTUMNTIME IS TOPS FOR YOUR GEORGIA STATE PARKS VACATION. SCENIC MOUNTAIN VIEWS
FANTASTIC NATURAL WONDERS, FAMOUS HISTORIC SHRINES, SPORTS OF EVERY KIND....THIS
FALL, VISIT YOUR STATE PARKS. THEY WELCOME YOU.

FIRE DESTROYS BATH HOUSE AT MAGNOLIA
STATE PARK BUILDING VALUED AT \$15,000 LOST IN BLAZE

MILLEN, Ga.—Fire of undetermined origin recently completely destroyed the bath house and concession at Magnolia Spring State Park, valued at \$15,000.00.

Director Charlie Morgan of the Department of State Parks, when informed of the catastrophe, assured the local Park Committee, that the building was covered by insurance and that contract would be let immediately for reconstruction of the bath house.

STATE LOOKS CRISP WAY
(From the Cordele Dispatch)

State Parks Director Charlie Morgan and H. W. Oliver, engineer of the Parks Department, were in Cordele and Crisp county making plans for the development of the State Veterans Memorial Park at Lake Blackshear recently. Mr. Morgan appeared before both the Lions and Kiwanis clubs and the heads of the various veterans organizations in Cordele preparatory to beginning the development of the park.

This looks like a step in the right direction for the Parks Department. Unfortunately, the last General Assembly failed to pass an appropriation bill to provide funds to be used on the Veterans park and the park site has been untouched since it was donated to the State of Georgia last fall by the Crisp County Commissioners.

We want to commend Director Morgan for making plans for the development of the State Veterans Memorial Park. We realize the state is handicapped by the lack of funds to spend on such projects, but Mr. Morgan is out to have his engineers make surveys and begin work on the development of the 1,000 acre park.

Crisp county's donations to the state are being met by the various departments. August 1 the Safety Department took over the State Patrol building erected here and placed a five-man personnel in charge of the patrol work in this section of the state. John C. Beasley, Director of the State Highway Department announced \$40,000 has been set aside to pave the area around the State Market in Cordele and now Mr. Morgan comes through with plans for early action on the State Veterans Memorial Park, while a half-million dollars is earmarked for highway project in the city of Cordele awaiting action on a location

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GEORGIA'S FAMOUS STATE PARK SYSTEM CONSISTS OF 30,000 ACRES AND IS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$10,000,000.

The fire was discovered from the highway by Bill Landrum, who immediately contacted Cary Averett, Superintendent of the Park, but the fire had such a foothold, it was impossible to save the building.

The fire had originated on the front porch facing the swimming area. The front end of the concession was fully ablaze, and before the local fire department could be summoned, it had gained such headway, it was impossible to extinguish the blaze.

In the concession, nothing was saved other than a new springboard and a few tools used in the maintenance of the park.

Before the embers had died away, R.E.A. maintenance forces were on the job digging in the ashes for the underground cable, and business will go on at Magnolia Casino-Cafe as usual.

Chairman Walter Harrison of the local Park Committee, has been besieged since the fire by scores of citizens, expressing keen regrets as to the disastrous fire, but assuring wholehearted cooperation on the part of the citizens to go forward in rebuilding and expanding the facilities at Magnolia Spring State Park.

* * *

PARKS EXHIBIT SEEN BY OVER 100,000

Georgia's State Parks attracted much attention with exhibits displayed at the Made-In-Georgia Exposition at the Atlanta municipal auditorium, Oct. 8-12, and the Georgia State Fair in Macon Oct. 13-18. The exhibit, designed by property custodian M.O. Crane, consisted mainly of pictures, showing scenes from the 21 parks in the Georgia system. The photos, by Parks photographer R. S. (Bob) Johnston, were enlarged reproductions in both color and black and white. One of the most original features of the exhibit was a color slide projector which gave brief flashes from the various parks in miniature kodachrome scenes. This was particularly popular with sight-seers, especially children. It is estimated that over 100,000 Georgians viewed the exhibit at the two expositions.

STATE PARK JOTTINGS

In spite of moderate tides, marsh hen shooting has been good in the marshes off Crooked River State Park since the season opened October 1, Supt. E. L. (Bud) Hall reports.....Best shooting was available during the week when the storm raged up and down the Georgia coast, bringing north-easters and three days of very high tides which all but covered the marshes. Most hunters got their bag limits.....Dr. W.C. McHenry of Madison headed a party of four which enjoyed two days of shooting October 30-31.....Also in the group from Madison were Vance Little, J.W. (Big Jim) Ainslie and Dr. Parker.....This group bagged several hens during the high tides of Friday, October 31.....They had a fine time and plan to return next year.....Fishing, particularly mullet, trout and sea bass, has been excellent at Crooked River this month.....Supt. Hall is now equipped with a motor boat and is better able to take care of marsh hen hunting parties during the rest of the season which lasts until November 30.

* * *

Supt. T. D. (Duke) Williams advises visitors to Vogel State Park to come via U. S. Highway 19 through Roswell, Cumming, and Dahlonega for the rest of the park season which extends through Thanksgiving. Georgia number 11 from Gainesville via Cleveland and Neel's Gap is undergoing repair. T. D. says attendance was good in October despite inclement weather at the tail-end of the month.....Around 2,000 were present on Sunday, Oct. 19.....Many are sending in reservations for 1948 already, but none will be accepted until after January 1.

* * *

Although Jekyll Island has been the big news lately, other Georgia State Parks still are very much on the map and none are being neglected. This is the time of year when the individual superintendents like to catch up with what they call their "patching." Equipment is mended, cabins and other facilities are repaired, lakes and swimming pools cleaned out, new dams built, roads and trails cut, etc. Most Georgia parks, excepting those in deep south Georgia will be closed for the winter after Thanksgiving Day. They will open up ready for business around April 1.

* * *

Among the superintendents busy getting things ready for 1948 are Harry Glenn, Jr.,

and Dick Mooney, who recently took over at Laura S. Walker, Waycross, and Lake Blackshear, Cordele, respectively. Both of these likeable young men can be counted on to make friends rapidly in their new localities. Both are young, vigorous, enthusiastic and technically trained for park work.

* * *

Supt. M. H. Stanley up at Fort Mountain, Chatsworth, reports continued progress at his park. "We have our roads all worked out and we are improving the park every day," writes Stan. "We have the buildings in good shape and have just completed four picnic tables for the park lake. We have also been cleaning up at the lake." Stanley predicts that Fort Mountain will have all the visitors next summer that the park can accommodate, which is always good news. Crowds have also been good on weekends this fall, he reports.

* * *

Fred Cutts, president of the Crisp County Chamber of Commerce, Cordele, reports that the big press party planned for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9, at Lake Blackshear has been postponed for the time being. It will probably be held sometime in the spring. Dates will be set later. The Crisp County boys are live wires and greatly interested in building up the Veterans Memorial Park at Lake Blackshear.

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CAMP FIRE GOSSIP

Our headquarters staff has been busy lately.....Director Morgan spoke to the Rotary Clubs at Barnesville and Warm Springs Tuesday, Nov. 4.....Jimmie Jones, director of publicity for the Parks department, recently appeared on three radio programs, WAGA in Atlanta (Shell Panorama program), WMBL at Macon and WMAZ at Macon.....Everybody wants to know about Jekyll Island, it seems.....This department extends sympathy to Photographer (and Camp Consultant) Bob Johnston whose mother, Mrs. Pinkney L. Johnston, has been seriously ill lately. Despite his mother's illness, Bob has kept on the job, turning out his usual good photos of State Parks...Our sincere thanks to Betty Barber Kelly of Macon and Lois Melton, Blairsville, for the fine job they did recently as hostesses for our State Parks exhibit at the Macon Fair. Both girls were on the job constantly.

STORY OF CROOKED RIVER STATE PARK KINGSLAND, GEORGIA

Crooked River State Park may be reached by U. S. Highway Number 17 from Brunswick to Kingsland, Georgia, State Highway Number 25 to St. Mary's and Crooked River State Park and is fifty-one miles south of Brunswick. We have train and bus lines operating daily to Kingsland and taxi or train service may be obtained from Kingsland to St. Mary's.

Adjacent to the Crooked River State Park is Santa Maria Mission State Park area with unusually well-preserved tabby ruins of the early Santa Maria Spanish Mission. This mission was built in the early 1600's. Crooked River State Park is also near the city of St. Mary's, Georgia, which is one of the oldest cities of Georgia and still one of the leading shrimp and oyster ports in the State. The entire park and surroundings teem with early American history and tradition.

From the recently constructed modern docks and the best salt water trout, flounder, and drum fish may be caught without charge.

One of the outstanding features is the excellent Marsh Hen hunting directly across Crooked River from the park. There are some several hundred acres of marsh providing some of the finest Marsh Hen hunting on the east coast. The Marsh Hen shooting season opens October 1st and closes November 30th. The bag limit is 15 a day and possession limit is 30 daily. Hunting is best at high tide.

Total number of cottages for adults are \$1.50 per day or \$10.00 per week, children half price. A deposit of \$10.00 is required for a week and \$5.00 deposit for weekend reservations. Cottages cannot be reserved for more than two weeks at any time. Reservations for this park may be made through Mr. E. L. Hall, Superintendent, Crooked River State Park, Kingsland, Ga. Please state number of adults and children, exact dates, and enclose deposit in letter for reservations.

A beautiful new concrete swimming pool has just been completed and bath house facilities are available at the rate of 30¢ for adults and 15¢ for children. At the concession building you may now secure souvenirs, pasteurized milk, post cards, stamps, and other supplies. Playground equipment has been installed.

For the first time in the park's history, Director Charlie Morgan has added to our staff full time recreational directors and now scheduled recreational activities are programmed.

Equipment for the following sports is furnished without charge by the Parks Department; badminton, archery, volley ball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, croquet, children's playground and toys. In addition to this supervised recreation will include swimming, diving, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and community singing and group recreation. There will be a small charge for boating and use of lockers while swimming.

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"POSSUM POKE" BECOMES NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

Georgia's magnificent State Park system received a new and welcomed addition recently when the Hon. Chase S. Osborn, world traveler, author, former member of Congress and former governor of Michigan, deeded to the State of Georgia his picturesque home near Poulan in Worth County known as "Possum Poke."

The gift was immediately accepted by Gov. M.E. Thompson and Director of Parks Charlie Morgan. "Possum Poke" in Possum Lane comprises roughly about fifteen acres in the seventh land district of North County. It consists of the Osborn home, a few other buildings and a library which Osborn describes as "modest, but unusual." The State Parks Department hopes to turn "Possum Poke" into a tourist shrine on the order of Jefferson Davis Museum at Irwinville and Liberty Hall, home of Alexander H. Stephens, at Crawfordville. In deeding his home over to the State, Gov. Osborn asked that certain privileges of residence be retained for himself, daughter Stella Brunt Osborn and two servants, Ethel Lee Rhymes and Lula Mae Tolbert. "Possum Poke" thus becomes Georgia's twenty-first state park. Fifteen of these have either been developed or are in the process of development.

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THERE'S PLEASURE AHEAD FOR YOU....AT
GEORGIA'S TWENTY-ONE STATE PARKS

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

A PROPHECY
(From the Macon Telegraph)

* * * Travelers Rest, S.C.

Dear Sir:

So many of your correspondents and letter-writers are scolding Gov. Thompson about the purchase of Jekyll Island by the State, that I wish to enter my plea in the defense of the project, and at the same time make a prophecy.

My late friend, Frank Oliphant, always said that a man was a fool to prophesy anything unless he made the date of his prophecy far enough in the future to be beyond his lifetime. I, therefore, wish to prophesy that, 20 years from now, the entire State of Georgia will commend Governor Thompson for his purchase of this island. I wish to prophesy still further that, in the distant future, long after every other act of this present governor and immediate predecessors is forgotten, the people of Georgia will remember him for providing a state-owned recreation park on one of the golden isles of Georgia.

Governor Thompson, of the State of Georgia, has done just exactly what I tried to persuade the National Park Service to do with St. Catherine's Island. Here, of course, we do have the home, (although much altered), of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. On St. Catherine's Island, we also have the site of the first Christian Mission in the United States. At the time I made the request, St. Catherine's Island could have been bought for a song, and I suppose I should have tried to get the State of Georgia to purchase it. Unfortunately, the National Park Service did not purchase the island.

My hope is, that Governor Thompson will live long enough to see and hear the people of Georgia commend him for his action; and in the natural course of events, he should do so. I sincerely hope that areas will be developed on Jekyll Island where people of moderate means will be able to rent cottages and recreate at little expense. I also hope that many areas on the island will be planted with bright flowers, like azaleas and camellias, believing that this will give joy to thousands of people in the state.

DR. C. C. HARROLD
Macon, Georgia

I wish to congratulate you on your excellent "GEORGIA PARK VIEWS."

I find this publication both informative and interesting—it is just packed full of notes on attractions that all tourists will wish to see.

Georgia truly has an excellent group of parks.

Cordially yours,

S. R. WINTERS
Travelers Rest
South Carolina

* * *

Athens, Georgia

I want to thank you for the information you have sent me regarding the state parks. I have read it all with much interest.

I wish to hereby request that you please place this department on your mailing list for your nice publication entitled "GEORGIA PARK VIEWS," and any other publications you might issue from time to time.

Plan to come to see us whenever you are in Athens.

Sincerely yours,

HUBERT B. OWENS
Head, Department of
Landscape Architecture
University of Georgia

* * *

Forsyth, Georgia

Would you please put my name on your mailing list for your State Parks publication and I also would appreciate your sending me the back issues.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR L. OGILVIE
Landscape Architecture

* * *

YOU ARE INVITED TO ENJOY THE FACILITIES
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